SHS EXAMINER

SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL, QUEBEC

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D R U G S T O D A Y

Recently Mr. Seville, Michael O'Hearn and Henry Morse visited the Douglas Hospital where they interviewed two teen-age patients. Following is an account of that conversation.

Frank is sixteen. Dressed casually, he wears glasses and the peace symbol hangs from his neck. His red hair would be considered much too long in Selwyn House. He said that he was in the ward mainly because of the difficulties he had at home, but he admitted that he had smoked pot and hashish, and had taken L.S.D. He has been in the ward for eight months.

Val is also sixteen. Her problem is drugs: she has smoked pot and hashish, taken L.S.D. and speed, tried heroin fifteen times, and used barbituates when she had nothing else. She was on a steady acid trip of four months before being brought to the Douglas Hospital, where she's been sporadically for the last year. She is wearing pyjamas and a dressing gown, and is not allowed to wear anything else; this measure was taken by the staff to prevent her from escaping, which she had done at least four times. But Val knows she is getting better; she has stayed at the ward for the last two months without a break.

Neither Val nor Frank found much wrong with pot; for both of them it was their first experience with drugs. This was mostly the case, Val noted, "Though there is one girl in the ward who started right off with acid."

Frank describes his first encounter with pot as at a friend's house, where he was given an odd-looking cigarette, twisted at each end; this was two summers ago. And it was in Westmount, which like everywhere else, Frank says, is loaded with drugs.

Val's experience was similar, except that she was introduced to drugs at age twelve. She observes that her state under pot was different from that under other drugs: that she could still see, hear, and smell, but much better, and that she felt happier.

They both compared it with alchohol: you can't really blow your mind with it. They smoked it for relaxation. Val says she will probably smoke it again, and so does Frank, despite an agreement with his parents to the contrary. He thinks that pot should definitely be legalized, but Val isn't sure. Nor could she answer if she would let her children smoke it.

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After a while, though, Frank found that both pot and hash began to bore him. He tells the story of one of his friends who unloaded half a pound of hash on him, saying that it didn't turn him on anymore. Then Frank ate it on the spot, but, as he says, "You don't get much effect from just eating it."

Val became bored with pot, too, and it was perhaps at that moment that she thinks she made her big mistake. Searching for greater kicks, she discovered L.S.D. and speed; she began to take them regularly, until she reached the rate of taking acid three times a day. She notes that she has taken it so much that she has built up a resistance to the drug, forcing her to take six to twelve times the regular dosage to achieve a high.

For a little while now the story will be completely Val's. Frank took acid, too, but not to the extent that Val did. He was lucky.

Val could easily find the drugs she wanted all over Montreal from people she knew, from the McGill College campus, and from many of the coffee shops in the downtown area. She says that they have just begun to make weekly doses of L.S.D. at McGill, and until a year ago, almost all of the acid in the City came from the Mafia, "That Big Man in the Holiday Inn."

But she had to support her habit. There are any number of ways to do this; theft, pushing, prostitution are a few of them. Val stole her money, and when she couldn't do that, she pushed pot and acid in her school, for which she was expelled.

She kept on taking more and more speed, "Just to blow my mind." She says. Each trip wasn't the same, but she found that she made hundreds of new acquaintances under the influence, and that she always had the craving to be 'flying' again. Not only could she do things better, but she found out a great deal about herself under it.

But the speed, the acid, the barbituates, the ether, and everything else she took began to affect her. Her teeth and eyesight became poor, her thinking unclear, and her coordination bad. The drugs also had some lasting effects, which are still with her. Val began to hallucinize, and she still does, when not taking the drug. Her reaction time grew greatly, so that she is now much slower responding to situations than a normal person. And she suspects that she has cut at least ten years off her life. Speed, which increases the rate of the metabolism, can kill people, and often ensures an early death.

Val tried heroin as well. She says now that if it had been available to her all the time, she would have become addicted to it. "It makes you dead inside, but nice and sleepy, with no problems.....and then, when you come down, and you see the whole rotten sick world, you want to climb back onto your cloud." She tried it fifteen times during the last three years, and, of any drug, it's the one that scares her the most. "Heroin addicts have a life expectancy of five years."

After she was put in the Douglas Hospital a year ago, Val felt a constant urge for drugs. They had become the great crutch, which buried and carried all the evils of the life she led. She was miserably depressed and lonely without this crutch, so she pretended to be cured, and she was released. Almost immediately, she landed back in the hospital. The ruse worked once more, but she was again brought back. Then she escaped; once to Yorkville in Toronto, and once to Haight-Ashbury; she hitch-hiked both times. There, pot was openly smoked in the streets, and the acid was "floating around all over the place." Her last escape was to Haight-Ashbury, two months ago, where she was picked up by the authorities and brought back.

For the past two months Val has stayed in the ward. She now says that she wants to be cured. She is trying hard because she wants to make something more of herself. If she was given the chance, right now, to leave the hospital, she wouldn't.

But Frank would. He believes that the hospital has done as much as it can for him: it has straightened him out from the "confused little kid" he was eight months ago. Then he tried to escape and misbehaved so much that he frequently had to be given the muscle relaxing shots which make it impossible to walk for three days. Now he has become more controllable, and has developed the philosophy that "The world is going to die in ten years."

He tried going to school in September, but he couldn't take it and dropped out. He says he would go home to his parents now and write, which he does during most of his spare time at the hospital. He would probably smoke pot again, but he wouldn't touch acid.

Neither would Val. She admits to still sometimes wanting to shoot speed, but says that instead the patients play games with other people to avoid the urge. She does not want people, anymore, coming up to her in the street and saying "What have you done to yourself?" She wants to achieve something for herself and the world, though she isn't sure what it will be. It's too early for that. All she knows is that drugs won't do it.

Both Frank and Val have found something that they think is a lot better than drugs. They believe in God. "Jesus is a great high", says Val. She found him about a month ago, while trying to fight the urge for drugs. It's a safe and a beneficial substitute for her crutch, a substitute that she can keep for her life. Frank not only believes in God, he believes that "God doesn't want us to sit around taking drugs all our life."

Another factor in their cure is the hospital itself. They both agree that it is doing as good a job as possible. Special treatments are provided, as well as facilities for carpentry, sculptoring, painting, a good gymnasium, and many recreation rooms. Frank, who will be discharged soon, intends to complete high school next year, and mathematics and English classes are provided for the patients.

Perhaps just as important as the work done by the hospital is the help that the patients give one another. Frank says that he has been feeling depressed lately, and that his fourteen fellow patients are always trying to help him improve his spirits. He says that this is an accepted fact because of the community-like unity among them.

Frank and Val are not particularly singular among the patients. All are in some stage of emerging from the mess that they had found themselves in, but they are lucky; Stearn Ward is the only place of its kind in Canada. While twenty young people may be saved per year, there are hundreds who have destroyed themselves with drugs, and have no place to escape and recuperate.

Val could have been one of those, but she was lucky. She was saved in the nick of time, though she still has a long way to go. Thus, this whole experience has added greatly to her maturity and awareness, and given her a completely new outlook on life. But will it be worth the periodic hallucinations, the confused thinking and the other mal effects?

Val says near the end of our conversation, "Don't ever take acid. It's not worth it." The Douglas Hospital is striving to help its fifteen patients to at least partially realize the horror of drugs. As Frank says, "All the kids on the outside are trying to get their hands on pills, while we in here are trying to get rid of them."

We would like to thank Frank and Val for being so kind and helpful, and we wish them all the best for the future.

M.O'Hearne
H. Morse

LITTERARY

I DON'T WANT TO DIE ?????

From the moment I woke up, I knew it was all over for me. My head was still swimming from the night before, but through the haze, I could still recognize a few cold hard facts: My financial standings - nil; my prized movie studios - million dollar shambles; and worst of all my wife and children had abandoned me. I got up and took a cold shower.

By mid-afternoon I had managed to scrape up a thousand dollars — not a penny more or less. I had mortgaged my house, sold my car to a junk dealer, and taken out the final balance from my bank account. I made up my mind what I had to do.

At seven that evening, I took a ninth floor room in the Harris Hotel. When I was in the room, I locked the door and left an envelope addressed to my wife on the dresser. In it was five hundred dollars and some personal possessions. Then I went over to the window and jumped.

The wind screamed past my ears. I was falling rapidly. In a few

seconds it would all be over.....THWANG-G-G! I was bolted upward as the hotel's flagpole ripped into my jacket and stopped my fall.

As the fire-department's ladder truck screeched to a stop below me, a hotel bell-boy shouted to me from a nearby window, "C'est la vie!"

Three weeks later, as I read about a murder case in the morning paper, the idea came to me. That afternoon I turned myself into the twenty-fourth precinct as the "murderer" in the case I had read about. I was tried and I pleaded guilty. My sentence was to be death in the electric chair.

Two days later I was strapped into the chair. The switch lever swung down. Just as the switch reached the "on" position there was a flash and a bang. A fuse had blown and I was legally free and very much alive. A guard smiled at me. "C'est la vie!" he said.

Five months later, I was sitting in an airport lounge. Then it struck me. I rushed over to the Air France counter and with my last $500.00 I bought a one-way ticket to Paris.

When the plane door opened, I rushed down the steps onto French soil. I took a taxi to the Eiffel Tower. At the top of the Tower I said what I hoped would be my last good-bye. I climbed over the rail and pushed myself off.

I fell very quickly. I was happy this time as I plunged toward my destination because this time I was sure it would work. On impulse I lookeddown. I cried out in despair. Oh no! Below me was a street-corner art exhibit. It had a maze of clothesline rope strung out to hang pictures on. I plunged right into the exhibit and the clothesline rope broke my fall.

As I was hauled off in a French paddy-wagon, one of the Gendarmes muttered to me, "C'est la vie!" I am now writing a book as I sit in my prison cell in a French jail. I think I'll call the book "C'est la vie."

—James Legere 1VA

F. Miller from Julius Caesar Act 111 Scene 2 —

Friends, teachers, classmates, lend me your ears,
I come to borrow from you and not to be prepaired.
The lending that men do lives after them
The teeth-marks are oft interred in the pencils
So let it be with lending; the unreturned eraser
Hath been left on the floor.
And if it were so, it was a grievious fault.
And grieviously hath the cleaning staff answered it.
Now by leave of Mr. Seville and the rest
(For Mr. Seville is an honorable man
So are they all honorable men.)
Come I to speak of lending articles.
And I must pause now, till it comes back to me.

With apologies to W. Shakespeare

Did you hear about the doctor who took up music lessons?

Now he's an organist! -George FT

PAINTED ROSE

Painted Rose.....
A name for those
Kind of people
Who live in a world of pretention.....
They try to fool others,
But they do not succeed, —
For all are in need
Of Reality.

They are afraid to expose themselves
To the truth of the world....
They are afraid to suppose themselves
As being unfurled....

Painted Rose.....
For you who pose
Constantly in your dreamworld:
You cannot pretend that you can depend —
That you can depend
On your second way....
You will be unveiled —
And then you'll have failed
In your efforts to hide away.

GFT 29-9

FRENCH EDITORIAL

Il faut savoir que si l'on passait Bill 63, cela donnerait la permission aux parents d'enseigner leurs enfants dans la langue de leur choix; mais il sera obligatoire d'avoir une connaissance sufisante poure faire son travail en français.

Le département de l'éducation, pour être certain de cela, donnera un exame en sixième année et en onzième année.

Les deux groupes les plus opposés sont; La Société St. Jean-Babtist de Montréal et le parti Québequois qui sont réellement séparatistes purs.

Cependant il y a un groupe de gens sérieux et intellectuels qui s'oppose à ce Bill parce qu'ils ont peur de perdre la langue français dans la ville de Montréal en moins que cinquante ans. Leur craint est basée sur le fait que le taux de naissance est maintenant le plus bas au Canada et si les émaigrants choisissent d'apprendre l'anglais, la langue français alors disparraitrait.

La meilleure réponse à cet argument est contenue dans un discoure pronnoncé par M. Gérard Fillion, Président de "Marine Industries Limited," le quatre novembre.

Son discours est rapporté la prochaine journée dans l'édition du "Montreal Star." Je vous recommande de le lire à la page 47.

— Marc Cordeau

FORESIGHT

The recent campus dissension and numerous riots in Québec, and particularly in Montréal, have not been necessarily ignited by a Communist movement, as some fear.

The Québecois, as they call themselves, are experiencing an intense flare for equal (or more than equal) rights. It has been suspected that some nationalists or separatists have been training under the direction of a few imported guerrilas from Cuba.

The Québecois claim that all of their problems started with 'traitors' like Premier Bertrand and, of course, 'the anglophones'.

They are "committed to work in English" in the province of Québec, where more than 80% of the population is French speaking. Montreal is 35% English.

In the past history of this province, several attempts have been made to attract large industrues to Québec — some successful, some not.

During the régime of Maurice Duplessis (Union National), he, as Premier, endeavoured to organize a cheap labour force in the municipalities of Sherbrooke, Québec City and Montréal. His plan was not very profitable.

While there are few large French-owned industries here, most of them are English. With separation, some of the big companies such as Canadian National, Canadian Pacific Railways and Royal Bank of Canada would move out, thus causing the economy to falter.

However, the French separatist groups persist in shoving their extreme policies forward, and seldom stop to consider the disadvantages of seceding from Canada. Their student followers, some educated by separatist teachers, remain unquestionably devoted to their cause.

— George FT

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X      X  X   X  X   X  X     X      X
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U-14 SOCCER LOSES TO BISHOPS

SCORE: SHS 1 - BCS 3

The soccer team played a fast-moving game at Bishops. Bishops team kept the play in our half for a good part of the game. The only Selwyn House goal was scored by Howard Carter. Bishop's strength came from the halfbacks and the fullbacks; Selwyn House had strong wingers. Although the team never had complete control of the ball, they had many promising break-aways.

The Team's Season: The team played seven games in all. Their opponents were: Sedbergh, Ashbury, St. George's, Bishop's and Lower Canada College. They practised Monday and Wednesday afternoons during "games period." Selwyn House had an inexperienced team but they enjoyed themselves and gained the experience needed to make a good team for next year. Danny Schouela and Bill Turner were awarded crests for excellent performance.

Mr. Lewis did a superb job coaching and several members of the team have asked us to bring this to the attention of the readers of the SHS EXAMINER.

—Eric Foch

SENIOR SOCCER - BCS 0 - SHS 2

The game was played under slippery conditions. Selwyn House controlled the game from stsrt to finish. In the first half SHS had numerous scoring opportunities and capitalized on two of them. Goals were scored by Jimmy Paul and Chip Ford. In the second half the senior team protected their first half output. This game was the senior's final game of the season. They had an exceptionally fine season with only two losses.

—Graeme Watt

BANTAM FOOTBALL - BCS 18; SHS 0

The conditions were wet at BCS. The SHS defense was better than the offense. Defense was led by Hannon and Dibben. During the first half, SHS running back Box was injured in the leg on a punt return. This left

a serious gash in the defense. Most of the touchdowns were scored on bad breaks such as interceptions. The game was keenly contested with not much difference in the two teams. The story of the game was the interception.

Although the Bantams did not have a winning team this year, the outlook looks bright for next year with everyone in Form IV having a year's experience.

The following received color awards:

Box Borne
Beaubien Robertson —G.W.

SENIOR FOOTBALL CAPTURES NORSWORTHY TROPHY

The senior team played an exciting game at Bishops — winning 20 points to 12. The captain of the team, Craig Shannon, was presented the trophy at last Thursday's Assembly.

—Eric Foch

U-14 HOCKEY GETTING STARTED

The under 14 hockey team started to practice a week ago at Montreal West. The coach is Mr. Becker. The boys concerned hope to have a good season. —E. F.

BASKETBALL

The introduction of basketball to the school has been met very favourably and three teams have formed under the direction of Mr. Eldridge. The Bantam basketball team is a member of the G.M.I.A.A. and is expected to play five or six games in the league. The Junior basketball team will play intermural games. Another team of eleven and twelve year olds has been formed and they will play against other elementary schools. The introduction of basketball is promising and no doubt will be very successful.

—C. Rohlicek

WEIGHT TRAINING

A weight-training program has been set up by Mr. Eldridge. This program is open to all boys, although it is directed towards those from Forms II to V. It consists of several exercises to "develop the athletic ability of all boys in Upper Middle School and Lower Senior School," as Mr. Eldridge says. This program will take place on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays in the gym. Boys desiring further information should contact Mr. Eldridge.

— C. R.

FOOTBALL LUNCHEON

The Football Luncheon took place on November 5th. It was highlighted by Mr. Molson's speech in which he stressed the neccesity for the school to "stick together" and "set an example" especially in the wake of Bill 63.

Several awards were presented at the Luncheon: The M.V.P. to Shannon; best Lineman to Segalowitz and Sports Ties went to Landell, Chukly, Macdougall, Gentles, Schouela and Light.

— C. R.

CORRECTIONS TO LAST ISSUE'S FRENCH SECTION:

Mes amis, j'ai une bonne nouvelle, a vous annouce. Mon école est fermé cet année. Oui, c'est vrai a cause de la grève desinstituteurs de la province de Québec.

—M.C.

SHS FILM SOCIETY

Nobody Waved Goodbye is one of the best and most acclaimed Canadian films. It is a story of teenage conflict — the predicament of a youth who rebels against his parents middleclass goals and conventions but finds the world, away from home and high school, a cold place to go it alone, and ideals no defense where the need for money leads to shady practices. Filmed in Toronto, this feature-length film is a study of the sources of dilinquency in an affluent society, mirroring many of the problems and frustrations of young people. It has received awards from Loddon, Germany and Ethiopia.

A is for Architecture is a panorama of ancient cities, palaces, and temples whose splendour awed mankind. The film moves from one tradition to another, illustrating how each reflects the sentiments and the values of the time, from the massive temples of the Pharohs to the soaring skyscrapers of today.

—D. Barerd

SCIENCE

AVIATION

SUPERSONIC FLIGHT

The completed Anglo-French Concord S.S.T. is now undergoing flight tests that will assess its operation in subsonic and supersonic flight. Estimates indicate that it will be in regular service by 1976. The Boeing and Lockheed companies in the U.S. are presently working on their SST's.
(Supersonic means above or greater than the speed of sound; subsonic means less than the speed of sound.)

Scientists are now wondering if the ordinary passenger can take the punishment of supersonic flight. Till today, military and test pilots were the only humans to break the sound barrier. They usually went through a vigorous training program (similar to that of an astronaut) to condition them to the rigours of flying supersonic aircraft.

The Concord, for example, will fly at mach 2.7 (2.7 times the speed of sound, or about 1800 mph) and at an altitude of about 15 miles.

If you have ever flown in a jet plane, you will have experienced the sharp rate of ascent present at most take-offs. You sometimes feel like floating as the plane levels off. In the Concord, the rate of

THE STUDENT'S COUNCIL

The Student's Council is comprised of acting prefects and class captains, of Forms 1V to V11. It is under the direction of the Assistant Headmaster, Mr. Iverson. The president is Edward Segalowitz and the vice-president is Michael O'Hearn.

The main purpose of the Council is to be your voice - the voice of the students themselves - and then relay your views to the Board of Governors of the school. If you have a problem or a "bone to pick" with the school or school policy, tell your class captain. It is his job to be your voice in the Council. Support your school and your Student's Council. They are there to help you.

—Tommy Agar

ascent is so fast and so steep, that when it levels off a form of weightlessness will be created. Anything not secured will float to the roof of the cabin.

Because the plane will be flying so high, many dangers arise. For one thing, the glare of thesun will be tremendous, and staring through untinted glass for too long could produce ill-effects on the eyes. The temperature will have to be very well controlled because temperatures of the outer skin at mach 2.2 can reach as high as 450 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

At an altitude of 15 miles , the aircraft is no longer flying in dense atmosphere as at sea level. Should there be a puncture in present subsonic aircraft (flying at an altitude of about 5 miles) oxygen masks are provided for the passengers. The aircraft would immediately lose pressurization and the worst that would happen is that the passengers would faint if the oxygen masks were not used. However, in higher altitude supersonic aircraft (such as the Concord when the pressurization is lost then the plane, if it lands, would have a plane load of passengers whose blood has boiled! (Maybe the airlines will have to train the passengers in advance and equip them with flight suits!)

These are only a few of the problems that are to be faced by aircraft engineers. I have not discussed another problem, the sonic boom. This may be reviewed some other time. Hopefully, these problems will be solved, to enable YOU to break the sound barrier.

— Robert Miller

SPACE EXPLORATION

Apollo 12 —R. M.

Tomorrow, if everything goes well, Apollo 12 will lift-off and head to the moon, where Charles Conrad (commamder) and Alan Bean (L.M. Pilot) will descend to their landing site on the Moon's Ocean of Storms. A few thousand feet away from their proposed landing site is the landing site of the unmanned Surveyer 3. It is hoped that parts of the Surveyor will be brought back for exmination — to see what effect exposure to the lunar environment has had on this craft, which has been lying there for several years. The astronauts will perform longer EVA'S (Extra Vehicular Activity)than did Apollo 11. They will walk as far as a mile from the Lunar Module and will set up more lunar experiments (part of the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package, or ALSEP).

The Command Module is named Yankee Clipper and the Lunar Module, Intrepid.

SCIENCE EDITORIAL

Recently, the use of Cyclamates has been banned in the U.S. and restricted in Canada. From the information available, it seems as though cyclamates were injected into rats and the rats developed Cancer. As a result, after approximately ten years of human use, cyclamates have been banned.

Something that is injected into a rat at five times greater amount than that consumed by humans would likely have an adverse effect on the rat. It seems slightly illogical to me, that these experiments have caused the ban of this artifical sweetner, when humans are not yet known to have suffered. We will just have to wait until more is known.

— R. M.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that 20 Apollo missions are planned and that 15 are already finalized?

Did you know that the plasma jet can produce temperatures of up to 15,000°C?

Did you know that some scientists predict control of gravity by approximately 2020 A.D.?

Did you know the the pilot of a supersonic jet wears 140 pounds of equipment to keep him alive — a helmet, G-suit, parachute, oxygen lines, floatation gear and an ejection seat?

—R. M.

Vandalism

While all those who attended Maxwell's House at the school on Friday, October 24th seemed to be having a good time, a few thoughtless and ignorant individuals had too much fun.

During the course of the evening, two tires on Mr. Ashworth's car and two tires on Campbell Hendry's car were punctured with a sharp thin instrument. The location of the punctures was such that the tires had to be replaced. Also, at the end of the evening, a two-inch water pipe was opened in one of the locker rooms and the flood waters began to flow. While George and his staff tried to mop it up, it was soon evident that the task of cl cleaning up the three inches of water that covered the west and north halls on the main floor would have to be done by machine. The Westmount Fire Department came down with their vacuum pumps and soon had the water all pumped out.

It is too bad that so few can spoil so much for so many.

— P. F. Ashworth

The Book Fair

On October 27, under the direction of Mr. Burgess and David McCallum and with the aid of many students, the Book Fair took place in the gym. It was a clever scheme devised to raise more money so that the school could buy more books for the library. This is how it worked. The school, during the summer, ordered many new books for the library. The school paid for them and then in turn sold them at the Book Fair to the parents. The parents donated them to the library. Since the books were already paid for, all the money that the parents paid was pure profit! This tremendous amount of money that the parents paid enabled the school to go and buy still more books. These books are on their way to the school now. The Book Fair went so well that the school plans to have one every year to two.

The next project under consideration for the library is a complete recataloging of the books presently in the library. What a job this is going to be! It is still, however, just under consideration.

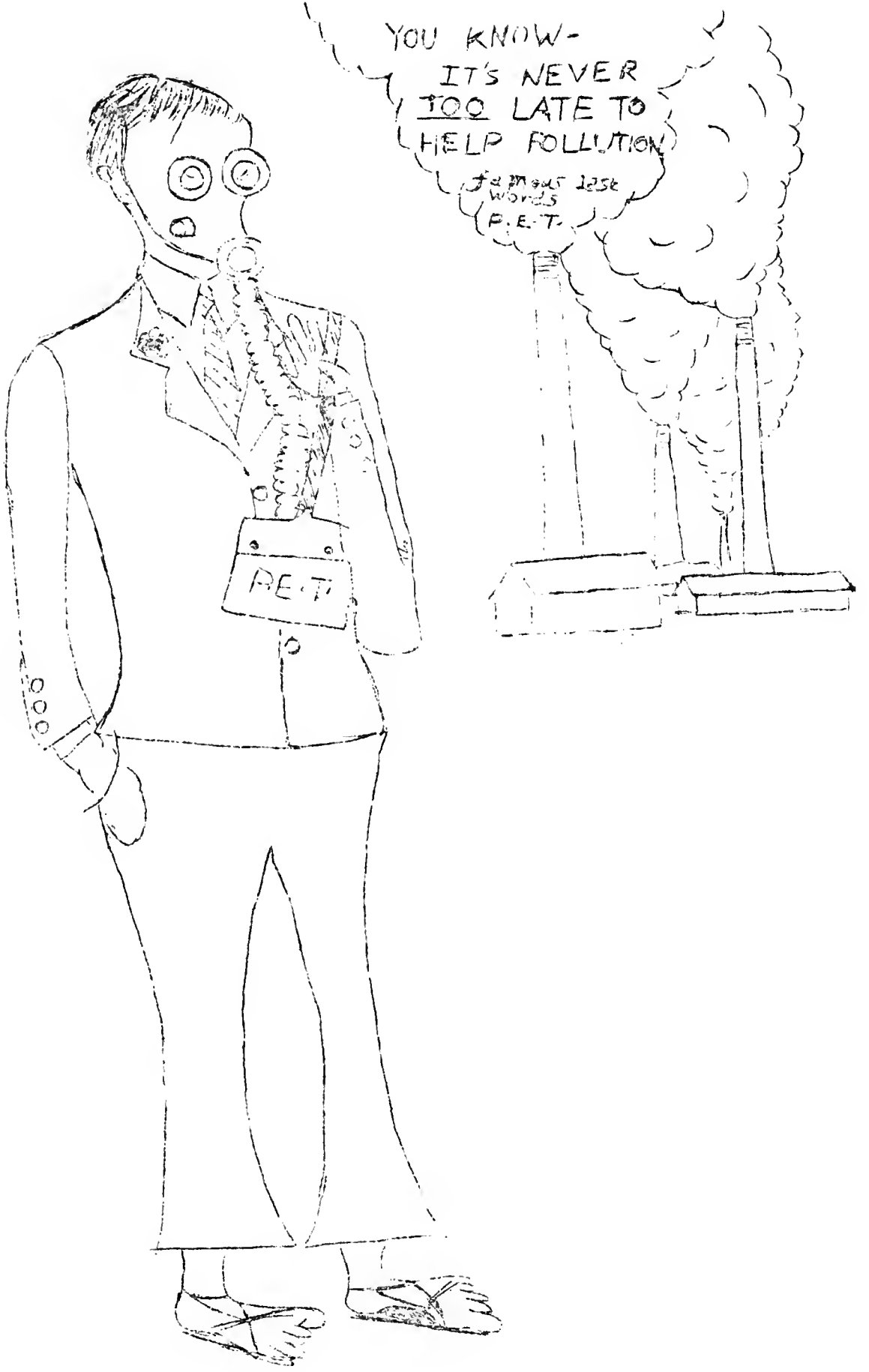
—Tom Agar

EXPO '70 Japan

There are still a few openings available for the trip to JAPAN next July 6 - 28. The all inclusive cost for this exciting trip is $795.00. Any student who will be 12 years old by June 1970, may go. See Mr. Seville or Mr. Burgess for more information.

The SHS EXAMINER is a monthly publication by Form 1V A of Selwyn House School - 95 Cote St. Antoine Road, Westmount 217, Quebec

GOOD LUCK IN THE 1st TERM EXAMINATIONS


YOU KNOW-
IT'S NEVER
TOO LATE TO
HELP POLLUTION
for your last
words
P.E.T.
P.E.T.

SAFETY ON SNOWMOBILES

This may seem like an untimely article about snowmobile safety. Unfortunately a very high percentage of accidents on snowmobiles occur either during early winter or this time of year. The lakes and rivers are not yet properly frozen at these ti es and many snowmobilers venture onto the ice, under these conditions they are likely to break through and some drown with their machines.

Much fun can be had on snowmobiles and they are not extremely dangerous IF used properly. Snowmobiles several obvious danger points:-

- High speeds that can be obtained on some machines that have been worked on are especially dangerous if not practiced with care. At speeds of over 65 mph. on a souped up snowmobile heading down a rural road with a pitifully lousy brake systeme and a car that you cannot see or hear comming at you and you don't any bumper, obvious results ensue.

- Thin Ice causes the vast majority of snowmobile accidents. Considering that an "Alpine" Ski Doo weighs over 500 lbs. how can it be expected not to break through ice two inches thick or four inches or even six inches thick.

- Colision is the next most common accident on snowmobiles. Snowmobiles collide with cars, trucks, and trains which is rather surprising since snowmobiles are not legaly alowed on railroad tracks or roads in Quebec. These accidents are not caused particularly by the snowmobiler's carelessness or the automobile's driver but rater by the fact that nothing short of an atomic explosion can be heard above its engine. Another cause is inadequate lighting, some snowmobiles do not have any headlights at all. Some snowmobiles crash into inanimate objects at night because of this. Another inportant fact is that snowmobiles do not have much of a bumper and when one crashes it literaly crumples like a piece of paper.

- Wire Fences are responsible for some of the most gruesome accidents when snowmobiles run into them. The windshield is very flexible and folds back when the snowmobile runs into a wire fence, and obviously gross results ensue.

- Miscelaneous other accidents occur, some due to lack of control on ice or steep areas. By far the most serious of these occurs when someones foot becomes entangled in the tread or chain of a snowmobile. This type of accident causes dis-located hips and serious lacerations. A common mechanical failure causes accidents. Often the throttle will freeze into position and does not allow the driver to stop until he crashes or runs out of fuel.

As with other machines at the command of man, safety on the snowmobile depends on the people involved, even the best designed, safest machine can be turned into a deadly enemy at the hands of a reckless driver. Much of the safety depends on the equiptment. This ranges from cheap do-it-yourself kits to racing models costing several thousand dollars.

SOME SAFETY TIPS

1) Avoid jumping, if you do, post (as on a horse) to avoid spinal injuries.
2) Be familiar with your machine and check it.
3) Be careful while night driving.
4) Don't speed carelessly.
5) Avoid thin ice.